

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended)** Vertebral osteosynthesis  
equipment, ~~including comprising:~~

- one or more bony anchoring members, such as chosen  
from pedicular screws (1) or hooks, whereof, wherein at least one  
said bony anchoring member comprises a one or more proximal  
threaded stud (6) intended for receiving studs adapted to receive  
a nut (4) and a base portion (7) intended for anchoring adapted  
to anchor to a vertebra;

- one or two linking rods (2), intended to be connected  
adapted to connect to these said bony anchoring members and to be  
attachedattach to the vertebrae by these said bony anchoring  
members,

- one or more parts (3) for connecting this (these) said  
one or two linking rod(s) (2) to these rods to said bony  
anchoring members, and

- one or more extension pieces (5) intendedadapted for  
engaging on thesaid proximal stud(s) (6) threaded studs of the  
bony anchoring member(s) members for running down connecting parts  
(3) on this or theseon said proximal threaded studs stud(s) (6)  
until they so that said extension pieces rest on the a proximal

~~zone(s) (17) of the base portion(s) (7)~~ zone of a base portion of the bony anchoring members;

~~equipment characterized in that the wherein the proximal threaded stud (6) of at least one anchoring member and the corresponding extension piece (5) intended to be used with this said bony anchoring member include a positioning means (12, 32) enabling member adapted to position the extension piece (5) on the concentrically on a free end of the proximal threaded stud (6), concentrically thereto, these, said positioning means (12, 32) member being such that the extension piece (5) comprises an end distal portion (30) whereof the having an external diameter adapted to is sized in order to let through the nut (4) thereon.~~

2. **(currently amended)** ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to of~~ claim 1, characterized in ~~that wherein~~ said positioning means ~~comprise member comprises~~ a rod (12) integral with the proximal threaded stud (6) or of the extension piece (5) and a bore (32) provided, respectively, in the extension piece (5) or the proximal threaded stud (6), ~~whereas this wherein said rod (12) may be engaged is adapted to engage in this said bore (32).~~

3. **(currently amended)** ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to of~~ claim 1, characterized in ~~that wherein~~ said positioning means ~~comprise means enabling member~~

enables axial connection of the proximal threaded stud (6) with the extension piece (5).

4. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~ of claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the proximal threaded stud (6) comprises a threaded proximal rod (12), and said end distal portion (30) of the extension piece (5) comprises a tapered hole (32) for screwing the extension piece (5) on ~~this~~ said threaded proximal rod (12).

5. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the extension piece (5) ~~is,~~ has a flexible structure outside said end distal portion (30), ~~of flexible structure.~~

6. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~ of claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flexible structure is in the form of a metal wire wound into a spiral.

7. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~ of claim 6, ~~characterized in that the spires of~~ wherein said metal wire has spires that are contiguous.

8. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral  
osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~of claim 1, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~wherein said end distal portion ~~(30)~~ is threaded ~~so that it~~  
~~enables to~~ screw the nut ~~(4)~~ thereon.

9. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral  
osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~of claim 2, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~wherein said positioning means ~~comprise means enabling~~member  
enables axial connection of the proximal threaded stud ~~(6)~~ with  
the extension piece ~~(5)~~.

10. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral  
osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~of claim 2, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~wherein the extension piece ~~(5) is,~~ has a flexible structure  
outside said end distal portion ~~(30), of flexible structure.~~

11. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral  
osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~of claim 3, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~wherein the extension piece ~~(5) is,~~ has a flexible structure  
outside said end distal portion ~~(30), of flexible structure.~~

12. (currently amended) ~~Vertebral~~ The vertebral  
osteosynthesis equipment ~~according to~~of claim 4, ~~characterized~~  
~~in that~~wherein the extension piece ~~(5) is,~~ has a flexible

structure outside said end distal portion ~~(30), of flexible structure.~~

13. (new) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment,  
comprising:

- one or more bony anchoring members chosen from pedicular screws or hooks, wherein at least one said bony anchoring member comprises one or more proximal threaded studs adapted to receive a nut and a base portion adapted to anchor to a vertebra;

- one or two linking rods adapted to connect to said bony anchoring members and to attach to the vertebrae by said bony anchoring members,

- one or parts for connecting said one or two linking rods to said bony anchoring members, and

- one or more extension pieces adapted for engaging said proximal threaded studs of the bony anchoring members for running down connecting parts on said proximal threaded studs so that said extension pieces rest on a proximal zone of a base portion of the bony anchoring members;

wherein the proximal threaded stud of at least one bony anchoring member and the corresponding extension piece used with said bony anchoring member have a positioning member adapted to position said extension piece concentrically on a free end of the said proximal threaded stud, said positioning member being such

that said extension piece comprises an end distal portion having an external diameter that is smaller than a diameter of the corresponding proximal threaded stud to thereby allow introduction of the nut along said extension piece.

14. (new) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment, comprising:

- one or more bony anchoring members chosen from pedicular screws or hooks, wherein at least one said bony anchoring member comprises one or more proximal threaded studs adapted to receive a nut and a base portion adapted to anchor to a vertebra;

- one or two linking rods adapted to connect to said bony anchoring members and to attach to the vertebrae by said bony anchoring members,

- one or more parts for connecting said one or two linking rods to said bony anchoring members, and

- one or more extension pieces adapted for engaging said proximal threaded studs of the bony anchoring members for running down connecting parts on said proximal threaded studs so that said extension pieces rest on a proximal zone of a base portion of the bony anchoring members, said extension pieces are adapted to be removed after implantation of the vertebral osteosynthesis equipment into the vertebrae;

wherein the proximal threaded stud of at least one bony anchoring member and the corresponding extension piece used with said bony anchoring member have a positioning member adapted to position said extension piece concentrically on a free end of the said proximal threaded stud, said positioning member being such that said extension piece comprises an end distal portion having an external diameter that is smaller than a diameter of the corresponding proximal threaded stud to thereby allow introduction of the nut along said extension piece.